

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1652

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hu *et al.* Group Art Unit: 1652  
Application No.: 10/041,770 Examiner: S. Swope  
Filed: 1/8/2002 Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0294-USA  
Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides  
Encoding the Same

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mail Stop AF  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on February 5, 2003 (Paper No. 9), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the rejections in Paper No. 9 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of two months to and including July 5, 2003, which falls on a Saturday and is therefore extended until Monday, July 7, 2003 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.